(d) the date from which the new agreement would come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (d) An agreement on revised travel arrangements between India and Bangladesh was signed on May 23, 2001 in Dhaka. This revised arrangement seeks to liberalise the 1972 visa regime between India and Bangladesh with a view to, *inter alia*, facilitating grant of long-term multiple-entry visas to businessmen, investors, professionals, research scholars, students and for people travelling on medical grounds. The notification on the Agreement on revised travel arrangements is under issue.

Payment of Excess Money for Renewal of Passport

†3425. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Indians residing abroad in Chicago have to pay double amount in addition to the normal fee to the officers of Indian embassy for renewal of their passports;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to hold an inquiry into the matter by high ranking officials;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) The Government has no such information. If any specific instance is brought to the notice of the Government, a suitable inquiry would be conducted.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Crossing of Indo-Bangladesh Dotted Lines

3426. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that the officers of both India and Bangladesh are helping anyone to cross the dotted line at 131 km. border stretch in Murshidabad district of West Bengal for money consideration; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to stop smuggling of arms, heroin and gold that has become rampant due to illegal immigration?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However,there are institutional mechanisms for regular dialogue with the Government of Bangladesh on various issues related to border management including infiltration and smuggling. Both countries have agreed to cooperate to curb these trans-border illegal activities.

Accompanying of CEOs with P.M. to Malaysia

3427. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a team consisting of Fifty member CEOs from the Confederation of Indian Industry accompanied the Prime Minister to Malaysia; and

(b) if so, what have been their achievements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the visit a Malaysia-India Business Forum was jointly organized by CII, FICCI and Indian High Commission with Malaysia's Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute (ASLI). PM Mahathir of Malaysia attended the meeting. Our Prime Minister delivered the Key Note Address. About 1000 Malaysian senior business representatives attended the Forum at which fifteen Business-to-Business Agreements/MoUs were signed.

CII also organized an India-Malaysia Technology Show in which 24 companies from India and Malaysia had participated. It was well attended by the Malaysian Public.

Indo-Nepal Relations

3428. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are apprehensive about the relation between Nepal and India after the situation created by massacre in Royal Palace, Nepal followed by the resignation of their Prime Minster; and

(b) what diplomatic action has been taken to ensure that the existing relations between the two countries improve further?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) In an unfortunate tragic